

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-17 are presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 6, 10, 14 and 16 were objected to for informalities; claims 4-9 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Braden et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,131,802); claim 1 was also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hounsfield (U.S. Patent No. 4,177,382); claims 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braden et al; claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braden et al in view of Plewes et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,923). Applicants note with appreciation that claim 3 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter along with claims 10-13. Since no prior art rejections were made to claims 4-9, it is assumed that these claims also contain allowable subject matter, since claim 4 is dependent upon dependent claim 3.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further highlight the invention over the prior art; claim 3 has been amended to place it in independent form incorporating the limitations of parent claims 1 and 2; claim 4 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and claims 6, 10, 14 and 16 have been amended to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action.

The first support device of applicants' invention is mounted directly on the gantry of the acquisition unit so that it can move, such as tilting, with this unit. In Hounsfield, the support devices 3 and 4 are mounted on the floor and do not move with the movement of the gantry or subframe 14, which supports the detectors 19 and the x-ray source 18. In a similar manner, while the front and rear tables 18 and 20 of Braden et al are attached to the frame of the gantry, they do not move with tilting of the gantry.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by either Braden et al or Hounsfield and that it is not obvious in view of the teachings of either of these two references, either alone or in combination. For these reasons, it is submitted that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the teachings of these two references and are allowable.


In view of the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3 and the amendments to place claim 3 in independent form, it is submitted that independent claim 3 and dependent claims 4-9 are in condition for allowance.

It is noted that claims 10-13 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Since these claims are dependent upon claim 1, which is patentable over the prior art of record, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-13 are also allowable.

With regard to claims 14-17, it is respectfully submitted that since they are dependent upon claim 1 or a claim which, in turn, is dependent on claim 1 and since claim 1 is clearly patentable over Braden et al and the art of record, these claims are also allowable.

In view of the amendments and explanations contained hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for immediate formal allowance and further reconsideration to that end is earnestly solicited.

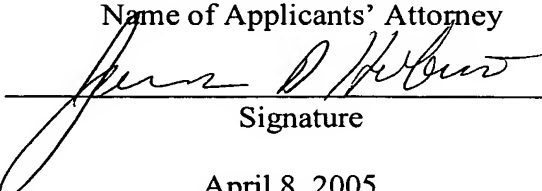
Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 8, 2005.

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Signature
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Date